VISION FORUM MINISTRIES PRESENTS

AN INVITATION FOR YOUR FAMILY TO JOIN US ON A PRIVATE YACHTING TOUR

THE 2013 FAITH & FREEDOM TOUR

ANCIENT GREECE

SEPTEMBER 20–29, 2013

YOUR JOURNEY TO GREECE

To You, the Few Who Have Travelled with Us to the Ends of the Earth:

On behalf of Vision Forum Ministries, my bride Beall and our eight children, I am grateful to bring you this advance invitation to join us for the 2013 Faith & Freedom Tour to Greece and Turkey: In the Footsteps of Paul. Beall and I enjoyed spending part of our 20th anniversary in Greece and returned with a vision to take more than a hundred friends to some of the most important locations in Paul's journeys, including Athens, Thessalonica, Philippi, and Ephesus, so our friends can enjoy the New Testament "in 3D."

Here is the clincher—we wanted to take the trip on a privately-chartered yacht that would allow our friends to enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime fellowship experience. The Lord answered our prayers by granting us a top-of-the-line cruise ship, dedicated to our group.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

The tour will be 9–10 days beginning in Istanbul, Turkey and ending in Athens. Your teachers will be Dr. Joe Morecraft, Bill Potter, and myself. In addition to all the normal distinctives of a Vision Forum Ministries' trip, one thing that makes this tour very special is that our housing, three meals-a-day dining options, and transportation will all be in one location and included in the ticket price—a gorgeous private yacht. No trains . . . no lugging luggage (not much) . . . simple!

The cost is $5,500 a person. We can accommodate more than 125 people. It will be a very "family friendly" tour that's great for children of all ages. Before I open the tour to the general public, I would like to invite our most faithful friends. Once we open registration, we will require payment in full by February 15, 2013 ($5,700 thereafter), in order to secure your spot. We hope we can share this great event with you!

THE BEAUTY OF MYKONOS

YOUR FACULTY

I am privileged to have two of my longtime friends—and two of America's finest historians—as fellow interpreters with me on our great journey through Greece and Turkey's past: William Potter and Dr. Joseph Morecraft III.

Bill Potter and I have been close friends for more than 25 years. We have traveled together for well over a decade to the great historical locations of America and Europe. In my opinion, Bill is the single most capable teacher of world history who interprets the past through a providential lense. As a father of eight children, Bill currently serves as Scholar in Residence at Vision Forum. He and his wife, Leslie, make their home in the Atlanta, Georgia area.

DOUGLAS PHILLIPS

WILLIAM POTTER

DR. JOE MORECRAFT III

I have been honored to know Dr. Joe Morecraft since I was seventeen years old, and in my view, he is the single greatest historian on the Reformation today because of how he passionately brings to life the practical lessons that the Church must learn today. Dr. Joe is a walking encyclopedia of theology and history, and he has pastored Chalcedon Presbyterian Church of Dunwoody, Georgia, since 1974. He and his lovely wife, Becky, along with their youngest daughter, Mercy, make their home in nearby Canton, Georgia.

MEDITERRANEAN CULTURE

On your trip to Greece and the islands of the Mediterranean, you will experience more than just historical locations bursting with the archeology and architecture of the pre-Western world. Your friends and family can experience the rich life of the Old World, with its fascinating people, colors, costumes, archeology, and architecture. Stop in a cafe and order a Greek Coffee. Climb an ancient ruin. Shop in one of the colorful bazaars. And while we are at sea on our yacht, take time for a snorkel in the beautiful water of the Aegean.

On your journey to Greece, you will enjoy access to first-class dining aboard our vessel; but, as we travel from port to port, you will also have opportunities on your own to sample and enjoy one of the most delightful, unique, and healthy culinary experiences in the world—the food and the joys of Mediterranean cuisine.

THE LEGACY OF THE ACROPOLIS

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. —Acts 17:16

YOUR PRIVATE YACHT

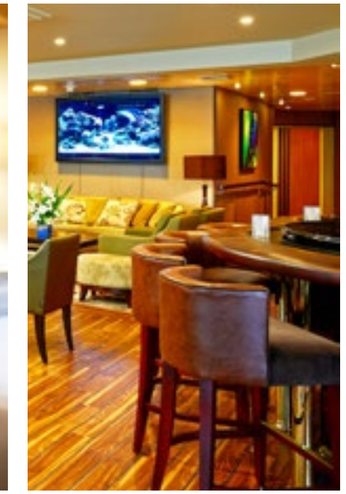
On your 2013 Faith & Freedom Tour to Greece and Turkey, you will enjoy luxury accommodations aboard your own private yacht. *Wind Star* is a sleek, four-masted sailing yacht capable of accommodating more than 100 guests. Featuring four wide-open, teak decks—which is quite unusual for small ships—there is 10,000 square feet of open deck space, allowing guests room for private moments, or to simply enjoy the voyage. And with a first-class crew and staff to meet your needs, enjoy a cool towel greeting you after a day in the sun, a perfect cappuccino made to order, or fresh flowers in your stateroom—all served with a genuine smile. Making your voyage perfect is the one and only order of the day. All staterooms have ocean views, queen beds, flat-screen TV with DVD player, and Bose SoundDock speakers for Apple iPods—plus 24-hour room service. Aboard *Wind Star* are two primary dining venues. The AmphorA restaurant offers gourmet, course-by-course cuisine in the evenings, and the Veranda restaurant offers casual buffet and full-service dining for breakfast and lunch.

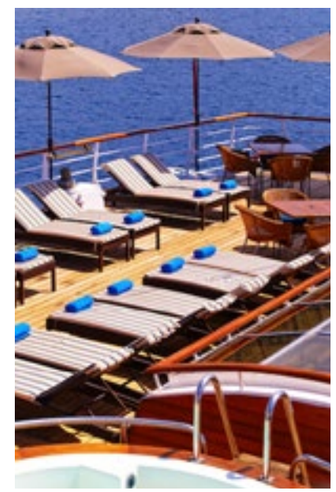
Ship's registry—Bahamas.

(Included in your trip package are meals for each day, including the Opening and Closing Ceremony banquets. Exceptions are lunch in Istanbul [21st] and lunch/dinner in Athens [28th and 29th].)

ONBOARD SPACES

1 The Bridge
2 The Veranda
3 Candles Grill
4 AmphorA
5 Staterooms
6 Signature Shop
7 Reception
8 Library
9 WindSpa
10 Fitness Center
11 Casino
12 Pool/Pool Bar/Whirlpool
13 The Lounge
14 Watersports Platform





THE MEDITERRANEAN

EPHESUS

ITINERARY

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20—ISTANBUL

5:00 Opening Night Welcome—Tour Begins

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21—ISTANBUL

We begin our journey in Istanbul, Turkey, the only city in the world situated on two continents, linking Europe and Asia across the Bosphorus, a waterway route from the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara and flowing to the Mediterranean Sea. Home to the Topkapi Palace, St. Sophia, the Blue Mosque and Hippodrome, where chariot races and the Byzantine riots took place, Istanbul is the epicenter of Constantine the Great's rule. Here, we begin our exploration of Asia Minor and the region of the seedbed of the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys, as well as the location where the all-important councils of Chalcedon and Constantinople met.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 22—AT SEA

MONDAY, SEPT. 23—THESSALONIKI

After departing Turkey and the New Testament area of Asia Minor, we will travel to the metropolis city of Thessalonika—the largest city of Macedonia. Paul would visit here on his Second Missionary Journey. Thessalonika may well be most remembered for Paul's flight from the threatening ruckus stirred by the dissenting Jews, and its ignoble comparison to the people of Berea, who "were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). We will walk through the triumphal Arch of Galerius along the Via Egnatia, one of the most strategic travel roads of the ancient Roman Empire. We will visit the Ancient Forum dating back to the 3rd century AD with its squares, porticoes, and Odeum Theatre (293–395 AD). And we will visit the palace complex of Galerius Maximi-

THE MESSAGE OF MARS HILL

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. —Acts 17:22–23

anus (4th c. AD), the Roman Emperor from 305-311. We will travel the region of the people of whom Paul said he "Remember[ed] without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God" (1 Thess. 1:3–4).

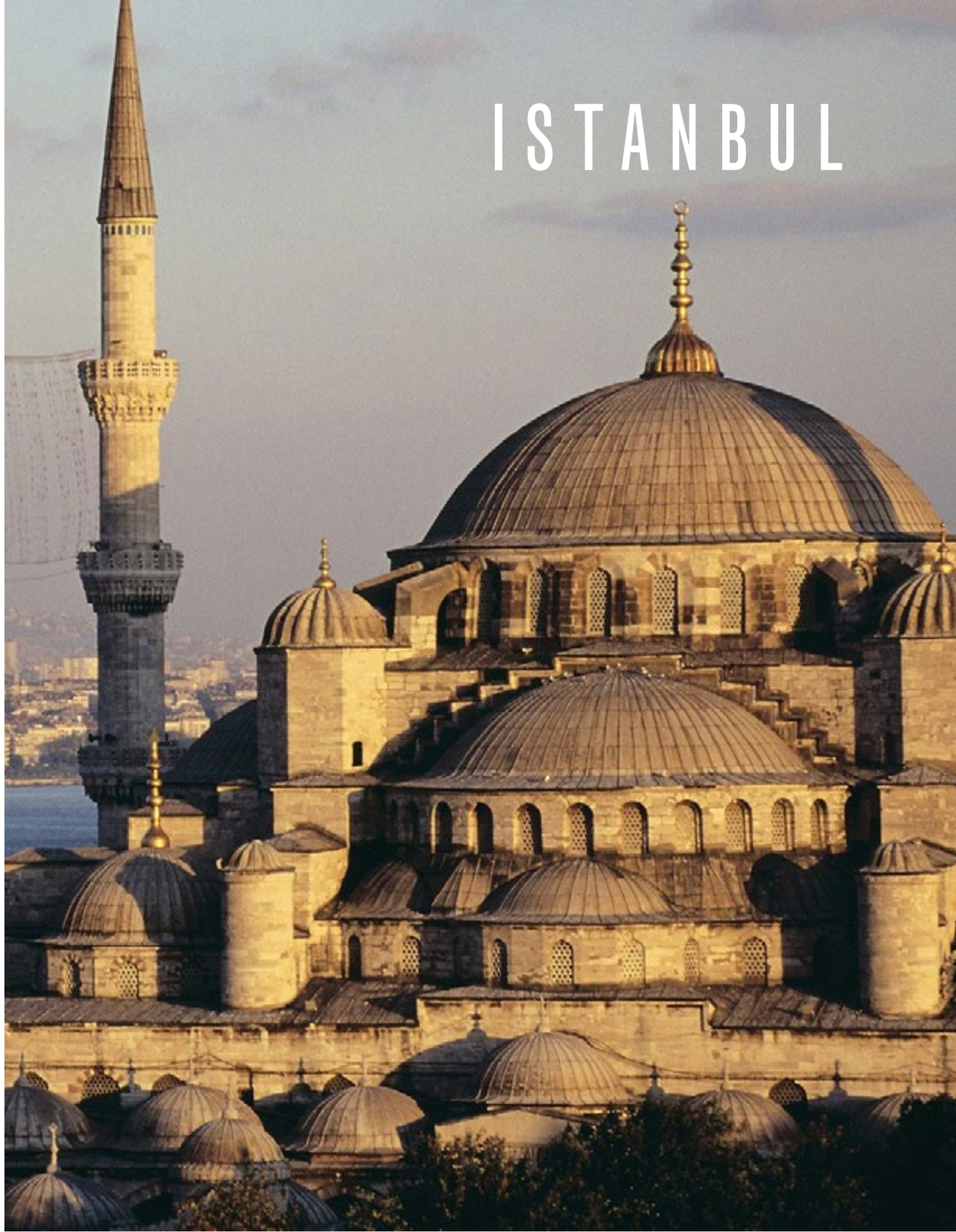
From Thessaloniki we will travel by bus to Philippi, the ancient city founded by Philip II of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great. Paul travelled here with Silas, and here in Philippi, Paul would meet Lydia, known to us as the seller of purple, "whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul" (Acts 16:14). And, she and her household were baptized. Paul would later write to the Philippian saints from prison, reminding them of his bonds and exhorting them to bear the same mind which was also in Christ (Phil 2:5). In Philippi, we will view the baptismal site of Lydia, we will see the famous Acropolis, we'll see the Market Place, and as we depart the city of Philippi, and we'll recall Paul's benediction to the people of the region "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (Phil 4:23).

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24—AT SEA

It is on to Kusadasi for another full day so you can visit Ephesus.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25—EPHESUS

Ephesus is one of the world's most magnificent restored archeological sites dating to Biblical times. Here we will enjoy walking along the marble paving of the ancient city. We'll enter through the Magnesia Gate and into the ruins of this Roman provincial capital. Listen closely as we almost hear the steps of marching Roman legions and the bold proclamation of the Apostle Paul addressing the Ephesians who "when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians" (Acts 19:28). While here, we will consider the context of Paul's exhortations, the cultural climate, and walk past the Odeon, the Celsus Library, the Temple of Hadrian, the Fountain of Trajan, and the Great Theater which was the seat of discourse accommodating 25,000 observers! We'll visit the region which provoked Paul's writing of the New Testament epistle which bears the city's name, and where he labored boldly concerning the kingdom of God and continued for "the space of two years."



THE REVELATION OF PATMOS

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. —Revelation 1:9

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26—PATMOS

"I, John … was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus" (Rev 1:9). Here we will visit the grotto where the Apostle John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, authored the Book of Revelation to the seven churches of Asia Minor (Turkey). We will pass the Monastery of the Apocalypse which was founded in 1088, perched on a hillside. And, we will walk the cobblestoned lanes to the settlement of Chora and visit shops, observing the culture, and possibly enjoy mezedes of bread, cucumbers, olives, tzatziki, and stuffed vine leaves. In this quaint and beautiful location we will consider the closing words of Christ Jesus our King, found in John's Revelation: "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. . . . And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev 22:7, 19).

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27—MYKONOS

Mykanos was colonized by the Ionians in the 9th or 10th century and is one of the Cyclades, a group of Greek islands in the Aegean Sea. Both luxury and simplicity can be found here for an excellent, casual, authentic Greek experience. Under the Ptolemies and the Romans, Mikanos prospered to some degree, only to sink into obscurity during the Byzantine era. Stroll Mykonos' narrow streets, bordered by famous boutiques, and view hundreds of tiny chapels and take pictures of the famous windmills! But context will inform our impression—Mykonos is an ancient town referred to in Greek mythology as the location of the battle between Zeus and the Gigantes. We will have opportunity to walk through the Old Town, enjoying food, shopping, and free time. And here in Mykanos, we will remember the first and greatest commandment of our God—to love Him. And we will consider the Apostle John's exhortation in the face of idolatry: "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen" (1 John 5:20–21).

THE GOSPEL IN THESSALONIKI

Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. —1 Thessalonians 1:1

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28—ATHENS

Athens, Greece—the epicenter of ancient thought and discourse, the birthplace of "Democracy," and the pride of an empire. While in Athens, we will explore antithesis regarding our presuppositions, standards, and thinking—Jerusalem, or Athens? Here we will recall Paul's most remembered public address which took place on Mars Hill, after "he saw the city wholly given to idolatry" (Acts 17:16).

We will tour the Plaka, representing "old Athens" which hosts ancient Greek and Roman ruins, Byzantine churches, Turkish mosques and nineteenth century houses. We will tour the Agora, the central meeting place and market of ancient Athens. We'll see the Stoa of Attalos, King of Pergamum, dating back to 159 BC. We will view the architectural grandeur of the Athenian Acropolis, "the most ancient theatre in the world" situated 200 ft. above the city. And we'll see the Theatre of Dionysus where the poets Sophocles and Euripides premiered their plays in the 5th century BC. We'll see the idolatrous Temple of Athena Nike, built in 427 BC to commemorate the victory of the Athenians over the Persians. And then we will walk to the iconic Parthenon, whose Doric style architecture dates back to its construction during 447–438 BC. We'll see the Erechteion, touted as the most original piece of Greek architecture in Athens. We'll see the shrine of Athena and Poseidon, and we'll see where Socrates taught philosophy and where Paul proclaimed the gospel! And as we walk the streets and ruins of Athens and consider its faded glory, we'll recall Paul's words to the ancient Athenians and their relevance to us today: "And [God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:26–28).

SUNDAY, SEPT 29TH—ATHENS

Worship, enjoy time in Athens. Sunday Night finale together. Tour Ends.

PAUL, AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST

by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus,
and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace be to you, and peace,
from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
—Ephesians 1:1–2

RESERVATIONS

To reserve your spot, register online at
www.visionforumministries.org/ancientgreece2013/